

Donovan Banking on Castro Word

By Robert T. Gray

LAKE PLACID, N. Y., Dec. 29 (AP)—Cuban prisoner negotiator James B. Donovan said today an additional 2500 relatives of the released Bay of Pigs prisoners were scheduled to come to the United States from Cuba under his agreement with dictator Fidel Castro.

Donovan told a news conference that the relatives would travel to this country on the return voyages of Red Cross ships carrying drugs and other supplies to Cuba in payment of the prisoners' ransom.

The New York City lawyer also said Castro had raised the possibility that he (Castro) would visit the United States on a trip that would include a speech to the United Nations and the continuing of negotiations for release of 23 Americans jailed in Cuba on grounds of anti-Castro activities.

Donovan said Castro had not indicated when he might visit this country.

The negotiator, vacationing at this upstate resort, said he had no knowledge of any reneging by Castro on the agreement to allow additional relatives of prisoners to leave Cuba. It had been reported that Castro was balking.

Donovan said he expected that Castro would live up to the bargain.

Nearly 1000 relatives of prisoners came to the United States aboard the freighter African Pilot. The vessel had carried the first installment on the ransom.

(In Havana, however, a handwritten notice nailed to the doors of the Cuban Immigration Office said today that the African Pilot would not pick up any more passengers for travel to the United States. It was not clear whether this constituted a flat ban on a further exodus.)

Donovan said the American Red Cross now was chartering a second freighter to take a second shipment of drugs and supplies and return with a second group of relatives.

Donovan said there had been much misunderstanding about the U. S. Government's role in arranging the prisoner swap. He said he did not agree that the presence of the Government in the picture had exerted subtle pressures and had brought forth contributions for the ransom that otherwise would not have been made.